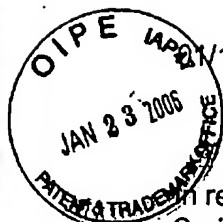


Dep & Ref



2005 JUN 23 PM 2

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Office
In re Application of : Pierre MARCELLI
Serial no. : 10/532,144
Filed : with an effective filing date of October 21, 2003
For : LOAD HANDLING PLATFORM PROVIDED WITH RETRACTABLE ROLLERS
Group Art Unit : 3651
Examiner :
Docket : NITROF P62AUS

The Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR REFUND

Dear Sir:

The deposit account of the undersigned (Deposit Account No. 04-0213) was charged \$130.00 as fee code 2616 on November 23, 2005 as PTO Control No. 6, see attached copy thereof, for alleged fee deficiencies relating to the above-referenced application multi-dependent claim, i.e., for multi-dependent claims. It is believed that this charge to our deposit account is in error for the following reason.

Original claims 1-13, which contain multi-dependent claims, were canceled in favor of new claims 14-26 upon filing this application by way of a Preliminary Amendment which accompanied this filing on April 20, 2005, as witnessed per attached copy of the return postcard and Preliminary Amendment. Consequently, it is submitted that this charge to our deposit account is in error and a refund, in the form of a check refunding the charged amount and payable to the office of the undersigned, should be issued by the Patent Office. In the event that the Patent Office disagrees with the

10/532,144

above, it is respectfully requested that the Patent Office forward to the undersigned a formal explanation of why a refund is not proper in this instance.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Bujold, Reg. No. 32,018

Customer No. 020210

Davis & Bujold, P.L.L.C.

Fourth Floor

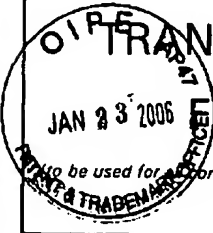
500 North Commercial Street

Manchester NH 03101-1151

Telephone 603-624-9220

Facsimile 603-624-9229

E-mail: patent@davisandbujold.com

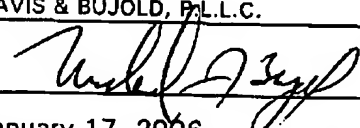
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|  | Application Number | 10/532,144 |
| | Filing Date | with an effective filing date of October 21, 2003 |
| | First Named Inventor | Pierre MARCELLI |
| | Group Art Unit | 3651 |
| | Examiner Name | |
| Total No. of Pages in this Submission: 11 | Attorney Docket Number | NITROF P62AUS |

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

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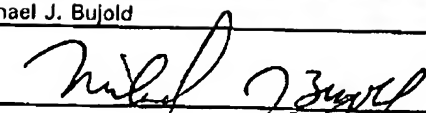
REMARKS

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Firm or Individual Name | Michael J. Bujold DAVIS & BUJOLD, P.L.L.C. | Reg. No. 32,018 CUSTOMER NO. 020210 |
| Signature |  | |
| Date | January 17, 2006 | |

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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In re Appln. of: Pierre MARCELLI

Serial No.:

10/532144

Filed:

with an effective filing date of 10/21/2003

For:

LOAD HANDLING PLATFORM PROVIDED WITH
RETRACTABLE ROLLERS

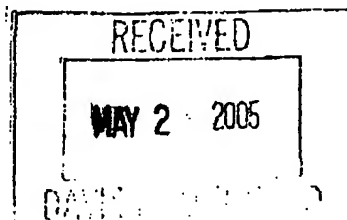
Docket:

NITROF P62AUS

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12 pg. Specification/Claims, 2 pg. Declaration and
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Preliminary Amendment, 2 pg. Int'l Search Report,
3 Citations, 1 pg. PCT/IB/308, 1 pg. Int'l Publ.
(face pg.), 4 pg. Request, 1 pg. Submission of
Formal Drawings, 2 pg. Drawings, 1 pg. Abstract

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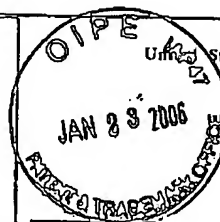
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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Pierre MARCELLI
Serial no. :
Filed : with an effective filing date of October 21, 2003
For : LOAD HANDLING PLATFORM PROVIDED
WITH RETRACTABLE ROLLERS
Group Art Unit :
Examiner :
Docket : NITROF P62AUS

The Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

By way of preliminary amendment, please amend the above identified application as set forth below.

In the Specification:

Please add paragraphs 002, 003, 008, 010, 019 and 026 of the specification as follows in which the specification additions are shown by underlining and the specification deletions are shown by strikeout. Please enter the replacement specification paragraphs into the record of this case.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-13, as well as any Chapter II amended claims, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, in favor of new claims 14-26 as follows.

[002] This application is a national stage completion of PCT/FR2003/003126 filed October 21, 2003 which claims priority from French Application Serial No. 02/13075 filed October 21, 2002.

[003] FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[008] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[010] SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[019] BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[026] DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

14. (NEW) A roller device (10) for displacing a load (1) in an essentially horizontal plane comprising at least one essentially horizontal table (21) to which roller elements (23, 24) are attached, at least one rack (31) covering said table (21) equipped with openings (32, 33) located opposite said roller elements (23, 24), said rack (31) defining a plane contact surface (S) for supporting said load when the load is static and said roller elements (23, 24) being located in a plane essentially parallel to said surface (S) and able to support said load when the load is moving, an actuating means (40) being associated with at least one of the rack (21) and the table (31) to be movable relative to another of the rack (21) and the table (31) between at least a lower position and an upper position wherein the load is supported either by the rack (31) or by the table (21), said actuating means (40) is designed to displace one of the rack (21) and the table (31) at least in a horizontal translation (Th), said rack (31) comprises a lifting means (50) which cooperates with said roller elements (23, 24) on said table (21) so as to cause the one of the rack (21) and the table (31) to move in vertical displacement (Tv) simultaneously with the horizontal displacement (Th).

15. (NEW) The device according to claim 14, wherein a shape of the lifting means (50) is compatible with a shape of the roller element (23, 24) to form lifting ramps.

16. (NEW) The device (10) according to claim 15, wherein the openings (32, 33) consist of orifices defining at least a first zone (32a, 33a) which allows at least tops of the roller elements (23, 24) to project, a second zone (32b, 33b) for covering the roller elements (23, 24) and an intermediate zone (32c, 33c) which together with the roller elements (23, 24) forms lifting ramps.

17. (NEW) The device according to claim 16, wherein the second zone (32b, 33b) with the openings is designed to block the roller elements (23, 24) in said openings (32, 33) on the rack (31) in order to lock in a position of said rack (31) relative to said table (21).

18. (NEW) The device according to claim 17, wherein the roller elements are spherical balls (23) and the intermediate zone (32c) with the openings (32) is generally elliptical in shape, converging toward the second zone (32b).

19. (NEW) The device according to claim 17, wherein the roller elements are bi-conical rollers (24) and the intermediate zone (33c) with the openings (33) is generally triangular in shape, converging toward the second zone (33b).

20. (NEW) The device according to claims 18, wherein the first and second zones (32a, 33a, 32b, 33b) of the openings (32, 33) have transverse dimensions ranging respectively from 60 to 95% and from 10 to 45% of the diameter of the roller elements (23, 24).

21. (NEW) The device according to claim 17, wherein the rack (31) is movable and associated with an actuation means (40) and the table (21) supporting the roller elements (23, 24) is fixed.

22. (NEW) The device according to claim 21, wherein the actuating means (40) comprises at least one handle (41) moving in translation within a guide block (42) integral with the table (21) and oriented in an essentially perpendicular direction to the direction of horizontal displacement (Th) by the rack (31), said rack (31) comprising a guide groove (44) traversed by said handle (41) and angularly offset in relation to the guide block (42) so as to generate horizontal displacement of the rack (31).

23. (NEW) The device according to claim 22, wherein the actuating means (40) comprises at least one locking element (45) for connecting the rack (31) to the table (21) in at least one raised or lowered position.

24. (NEW) A load handling platform comprising at least one roller device (10) for displacing a load (1) in a generally horizontal plane comprising at least one generally horizontal table (21) to which roller elements (23, 24) are attached, at least one rack (31) covering said table (21) having openings (32, 33) located opposite said roller elements (23, 24), said rack (31) defining a plane contact surface (S) capable of supporting said load when the load is static and said roller elements (23, 24) being located in a second plane generally parallel to said surface (S) and capable of supporting said load when moving, an actuating means (40) associated with at least one of the rack (21) and the table (31) to be movable in relation to another of the rack (21) and the table (31) between at least a lower position and an upper position, the load is

supported by either the rack (31) or by the table (21), actuating means (40) displaces the rack (21) and the table (31) at least in a horizontal translation (Th), said rack (31) comprises a lifting means (50) which cooperate with said roller elements (23, 24) on said table (21) so as to generate a vertical displacement (Tv) by the rack (21) and the table (31) simultaneous with the horizontal displacement (Th).

25. (NEW) The load handling platform according to claim 24, wherein the lifting means (50) has a shape that is compatible with the shape of the roller elements (23) to form lifting ramps.

26. (NEW) The load handling platform according to claim 25, wherein the openings (32, 33) consist of orifices defining at least a first zone (32a, 33a) that allows at least tops of the roller elements (23, 24) to project, a second zone (32b, 33b) which covers the roller elements (23, 24), and an intermediate zone (32c, 33c) which forms, in combination with the roller elements (23, 24), said lifting ramps.

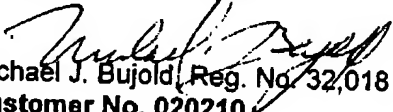
REMARKS

The above newly entered/amended paragraphs of the specification overcome some informalities noted in the specification. The undersigned avers that the newly entered/amended paragraphs of the specification do not contain any new subject matter.

Newly entered claims 14-26 merely rewrite the subject matter of original claims 1-13 in a more traditional U.S. claim format. The entered amendments are not, in any way, directed at distinguishing the present invention from any known prior art. Please consider the newly entered claims upon consideration of this application.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,


Michael J. Bujold, Reg. No. 32,018
Customer No. 020210
Davis & Bujold, P.L.L.C.
Fourth Floor
500 North Commercial Street
Manchester NH 03101-1151
Telephone 603-624-9220
Facsimile 603-624-9229
E-mail: patent@davisandbujold.com